Serial No. 09/977,496 HP 30004647-02 US LHB 1509-229 Page 8

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14 are pending, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-13. To expedite prosecution, claims 14-16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants reserving the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter of cancelled claims 14-16. The cancellation of claims 14-16 renders most the sole outstanding rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. \$102(b) as being anticipated by Ingrassia (U.S. 5,941,957). In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, prompt allowance is respectfully requested.

To any extent necessary, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise paid, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-1225.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Andrew LOW et al.

By:

Allan M. Lowe, #19,641

HP IPA

P. O. Box 272400 Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400 703-684-1111 telephone 970-898-0640 telecopier AML:rk